Salisbury University
Nabb Research Center
for Delmarva History and Culture

Shoreline

Vol. 12, Issue 7, July 2005

The Nabb Board

Vaughn Baker, Chair
Salisbury, MD

Margaret Genvert, Vice-chair
Salisbury, MD

Ray Thompson, Secretary
Salisbury, MD

E. Niel Carey
Ellicott City, MD

Richard Carter
Millsboro, DE

Del. D. Page Elmore
Salisbury, MD

Charles Emery
North East, MD

Gregory Ference
Salisbury, MD

Thomas H. Fooks V
Wilmington, DE

Harry Holcomb III
Franktown, VA

Lenore Huffer
Berlin, MD

Joe Moore
Berlin, MD

Kathryn Niskanen
Washington, DC

Gary Outten
Pocomoke, MD

Maarten Pereboom
Salisbury, MD

Melanie Perreault
Salisbury, MD

Marion Phillips
Salisbury, MD

Sandra Quillin
Ocean City, MD

Elizabeth Ragan
Salisbury, MD

Mike Scott
Salisbury, MD

Sarah Showell
Salisbury, MD

Clara Small
Salisbury, MD

Patricia Taylor
Salisbury, MD

Charles Thornton Sr
Burkittsville, MD

Andrea Ullrich
Heathsville, VA

Robert Withey
Cape Coral, FL

Gordon Wood Sr
Ocean View, DE

Emeritus:

John Jacob
Seaford, DE

Spot Light on Collections – Simone Myree

This month the Nabb Center unveils a collection of early 20th century postcards. Postcards first appeared in 1873 being published and issued by the U.S. Post Office. Most cards were used as advertisements until the advent of the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago when the public's interest in the medium soared. Five years later, Congress allowed postcards to be published privately.

With postage topping off at 1 cent, postcards were seen as an inexpensive alternative to letters. In addition, the images conveyed on many postcards rivaled works of art. The majority of postcard publishers outsourced the work to German manufacturers which could produce the images using talented and well trained workers for a fraction of the cost compared to the United States.

What followed was a boom in collecting with postcards enjoying several artistic metamorphoses. Several postcards in the collection center on the Easter and Christmas holidays, following the pattern of collecting in a few select areas. This month visit the Nabb, step back in time and glimpse the images that surrounded people in the early part of the last century.

Exhibit: *Catch of the Day: Harvesting Chesapeake Bay Artifacts*

Thousands of oyster packing houses once dotted the Eastern Shore landscape. Today, the colorful packing cans they left behind are highly desirable to collectors. The Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University features some of these cans and more in its display "Catch of the Day: Harvesting Chesapeake Bay Artifacts," July 1-October 14.

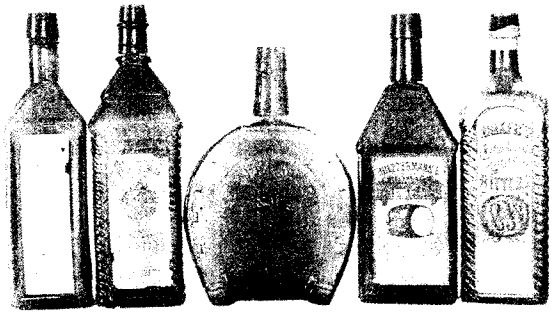
Pieces in the display offer a sampling of artifacts associated with the bay, including vintage bottles salvaged from the water, a generous sampling of other collectible glass bottles on loan from Bill Simms of Fruitland, and selected maritime photographs from famed photographer Orlando V. Wootten. Each image depicts Eastern Shore watermen plying their trade. Admission is free to the public.

Somerset Sets New Liquor Prices *by James E. Jensen*

The following guide for fair pricing was made the 12th of August 1693, in open Court, as assessed by the Justices of Somerset County, Maryland. To give the reader a sense of relative worth, a gallon of rum costs roughly $100 to $110 and a gallon of strong beer about $20 today in 2005 – which translates to a 1:1 ration for pounds tobacco to current U.S. Dollars for alcohol, while a pound of sugar today cost a mere 63 cents. This exercise reveals that sugar was a highly prized commodity in the colonial period when the cost of freight, the labor intensive refining process and the scarcity of supply surely drove-up the cost for consumers.

Ffyall Wine pr gallon	080
Burnt Rum pr Gallon	120
Raw Rum pr Gallon	100
Passadoe Wine pr Gallon	100
Maddera: Wine pr Gallon	080
Brandy: Wine pr Gallon	120
Syder pr Gallon	020
Syder & Sugar pr Gallon	025
Quince drinke pr Gallon	025
Punch pr gallon	025
Sugar pr pound	010
Parrett Wine pr Gallon	060
Small beer pr Gallon	010
Strong beer pr Gallon	020
Taking his lodging in a Bed	007
for a peck of Indian Sheld Corn oats	012
for pasture for a horse pr night	008
for hay or Straw for a horse pr night	010

The rates above said were assessed before ye Court adjourned. *Somerset Judicial Records 1693-1695*, p.29.



Salisbury
UNIVERSITY
Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801-6861
410-543-6312
E-mail: rcdhac@salisbury.edu

non-profit org.
U. S. postage
PAID
Salisbury, Maryland
permit no. 65

Up Coming Event
Wednesday, November 9, 2005

The Nabb Research Center presents the Washburn Distinguished Lecture in American History given by Dr. Helen Rountree. The lecture will be on Eastern Shore Native people incorporating recent research which illustrates how ingenious the Native Americans were at using the natural bounty of the land and waters of the region.

Dr. Rountree is a native of Virginia who received her B.A., College of William and Mary, in Sociology & Anthropology; M.A., University of Utah, in Anthropology; and Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, in Anthropology. She joined the faculty at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia, as an instructor in 1968 and retired as full Professor at the end of 1999. In 1995, she was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Award, State Council on Higher Education in Virginia. Dr. Rountree began researching the Powhatan Indians of Virginia, both modern and historical, in 1969.

7 p.m. in the Worcester Room in the Commons
Reception to follow.

GHOTES Conference scheduled for September 12-16

For the fourth time since the Genealogy and History of the Eastern Shore (GHOTES) group began nearly ten years ago, they will convene for presentations, tours, and community building. Meeting for most of the week in Craddockville, the group will be treated to history and genealogy talks by gifted and knowledgeable researchers and authors. Included are Miles Barnes, Rebecca Miller, Frances Latimer, Gail Walczyk, Barry Miles and MK Miles, David Scott, Jean Raleigh, and many others. A breakfast and book-signing will let conferees meet Eastern Shore authors. Conferees will also tour some historic homes, participate in a brick making demonstration from Philip Goldsborough, visit the courthouses and library, and join in the fun at the GHOTES Roast and Clam Bake. Anyone may register while space is available. See www.ghotes.net for details.